

When a resident of the DAA or GL facility receiving food stamp benefits completes his/her prescribed course of treatment at the center and is preparing to leave the facility, the center must:

- Return the EBT card and any food stamp benefits remaining to the individual; or
- Return the EBT card to the local DSS office.

DSS policy concerning the return of remaining food stamp benefits to a resident of the DAA or GL facility when the resident leaves the facility is very specific.

- If the individual leaves prior to the 16th of the month, the facility/center must return to him/her one-half of the monthly food stamp allotment. If the remaining benefits in the EBT account are less than one-half the monthly allotment, the facility may give the individual food items or cash equivalent to the amount of the food stamp benefits.

Note: To determine the balance in the EBT account, receipts for food items purchased with the EBT card should be kept or call toll-free 1-800-554-5268.

- If the individual leaves on or after the 16th of the month, the facility/center must provide him/her with a prorated amount of food stamp benefits based on the day he/she leaves the facility and the amount of food stamp benefits remaining in the EBT account, if any.

Note: If there are no food stamp benefits remaining in the individuals' EBT account, no action is necessary on the part of the DAA or GL facility.

Residents leaving the facility will be given his/her EBT card in order that he/she can use the remaining benefits.

The DAA/GL facility must return any EBT card or food stamp benefits not provided to departing residents to the local DSS office by the end of the month.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services would like to thank you for your continued support in providing services to our state's less fortunate citizens. Through our combined efforts, we can assist our recipients in becoming productive citizens of South Carolina.

If you have any questions, or need additional information concerning programs and services provided by DSS, write to:
**South Carolina Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1520
Columbia, S.C. 29202-1520
or call (803) 737-9238**

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

**FOOD STAMP
ELIGIBILITY FOR
RESIDENTS**

**Drug Addict
and Alcoholic (DAA)
Treatment Centers**

**Group Living (GLA)
Centers**

Individuals residing in your facility may be eligible to receive food stamp benefits while living there. As facility managers, you must be aware of your responsibilities/liabilities associated with the Food Stamp Program (FSP).

If you have residents who are participating in the FSP, please review this brochure carefully. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact your local county DSS office.

Drug Addict or Alcoholic (DAA) Treatment Centers

In order for a resident of a DAA Treatment Center to be eligible for FS benefits, the DAA Treatment Center must either:

- Be authorized by FNS as a retailer; or
- Meet the criteria which would make it eligible to receive funds under part B of Title XIX of the Public Health Service Act.

Group Living Arrangement (GLA) Facilities

A group living arrangement is a public or private nonprofit residential setting serving no more than 16 residents and is certified by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

To be eligible for food stamp benefits while in a GLA facility, the individual must be:

- Blind, or
- Disabled. (Disability must be total and permanent, based on the Social Security Administration definition.)

The GLA facility must either:

- Be authorized by Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) as a retailer; or
- Be certified by DHEC including a determination that the center is a nonprofit organization.

A DAA or GLA facility may purchase and prepare food to be consumed by eligible food stamp recipients on a group basis if:

- Residents normally eat their meals at a central location; or
- Meals are prepared at a central location for delivery to the individual resident.

If personalized meals are prepared and paid for with FS, the GLA must ensure that the resident's FS benefits are used for meals intended for that resident.

Application Information

Authorized Representative (AR)

An AR is someone appointed by the food stamp applicant to make application, obtain food stamp benefits and/or use the food stamp benefits on the individual's behalf. The food stamp applicant must designate the AR in writing.

DAA Treatment Centers

Residents of a DAA Treatment Center must apply and be certified for food stamp benefits through the use of an AR who is employed by the center and designated by the center for that purpose. Residents of DAA treatment centers are not allowed to apply for food stamps on their own behalf.

GLA Facilities

In situations where the individual needs assistance in making application for food stamp benefits, the individual may designate:

- An AR of their choice;
- An employee of the facility as AR.

If the GLA determines that the individual is capable of applying on his/her own, no AR is needed.

GLA and DAA facilities or their employees designated as authorized representatives for a resident(s) will be responsible for:

- Any misrepresentation of fact or intentional Food Stamp Program violation which it knowingly commits;
- Awareness of the FS applicants' circumstances;
- All losses or misuse of EBT cards or benefits held on behalf of resident BGs;
- All FS overissuances which occur while the individual is residing in the facility.

DSS must notify FNS when any DAA or GLA facility that is an FNS-authorized retailer misuses FS benefits.

The DAA and GLA facility must remain proactive in their responsibilities relating to the residents' eligibility for FS benefits. The DAA and GLA facility must:

- Provide the local county DSS with a monthly listing of all residents receiving FS benefits. A statement must be signed by a responsible center official attesting to the validity of this list;
- DSS must conduct periodical random on-site visits to the DAA or GLA facility to assure the accuracy of the list and to ensure that DSS records are consistent and up-to-date;
- Notify the local DSS office of any changes in the FS recipients' circumstances i.e., changes in income, when the individual leaves the facility, etc.;
- Provide the leaving FS recipient with his/her EBT card for remaining benefits or return the EBT card to DSS; and
- Inform the FS recipient leaving the facility to report all changes in his/her circumstances to his/her local DSS office within 10 days.

The DAA/GL facility must return any EBT card or food stamp benefits not provided to departing residents to the local DSS office by the end of the month.